Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov

GMM Objectives

1: Increase the rate of Montana students graduating from high school ready for college and the 21st century workforce

2: Establish a support network between schools, businesses, and community organizations for student success

3: Create school-based and community-based opportunities to inspire students to stay in school and graduate

Montana Data

About 2,000 students drop out of our schools each year

This number is gradually decreasing

Our state's larger communities ("AA Districts") have half the population of students who drop out

Montana's American Indian students disproportionately drop out of school

2011 Legislative Priorities

44: Raise the legal drop out age from 16 to 18

SB 141: Establish minimal anti-bullying policy standards to emphasize consistency, access and transparency **– OPI MODEL**

Budget Request: Funds for every Montana high school junior to take the ACT, to ensure all students have the opportunity to attend college, and to assess Montana students' college readiness **– GEAR UP $$$**

Superintendent Denise Juneau

Encouraging local GMMs

Locally-designed & implemented GMM initiatives with best practices of what works in Montana

All the AA districts have joined GMM: ***this represents one-half of all students who drop out each year***
Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Butte, Helena, Billings & Kalispell

Additional communities who've signed on include:
Hamilton, Belgrade, Livingston & Townsend

Communities who have contacted us to assist in launching an initiative include: Hardin, Anaconda & Polson

The Four Steps to GMM

1: Convene a multi-stakeholder team

Existing school-based team (incl. students & family)
Community organizations that share mission of family wellness
Main street business that care about strong economy/community

2: Know Your Data

Multi-year trend data on how many, who, when students drop out
Engage school & community in data-driven discussion:

(1) What is the scope of the dropout problem? (2) Which students are at high risk of dropping out? (3) Why do individual students drop out? (4) When are students at risk of dropping out? (5) What more do you need to know before developing a plan?

3: Make a Plan

Based on what is already working locally and in Montana

4: Build Public Support

Posters, Pledges, Media

Building off what works

Share what is working across Montana: approach, process and strategies

OPI Graduation Matters website:

http://graduationmatters.mt.gov

Link to existing OPI initiatives & allied efforts

- MBI, CTE, STEM
- Gear Up, JMG, YASC, AmeriCorps

Garner statewide allies for local engagement

- major employers, foundations, etc.

Graduation Matters Montana
opi.mt.gov

Communities, businesses & schools planning their GMM

School- Community Work –

helpful worksheets on-line at graduationmatters.mt.gov

Current School Efforts	In Place	Not in Place	In Place & Needs Work	Community Partnership Opportunity
1. School policies do not unintentionally "encourage" students to drop out				
1a. School attendance policies identify and respond to students who are absent or tardy				
1b. Students who are credit deficient are identified early on & supported in credit recovery efforts				
1c. Identify other policies to share				
2. The school offers a college-and career-ready curriculum				
2a. All high school students have taken the MT Career Information Systems survey, or similar tool to identify career interests				
2b. The school provides college-level, dual enrollment and Advanced Placement courses to all students				

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

What students need to stay in school

- **Structure**
- **Relevance**
- **Support**

I Pledge to Graduate

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